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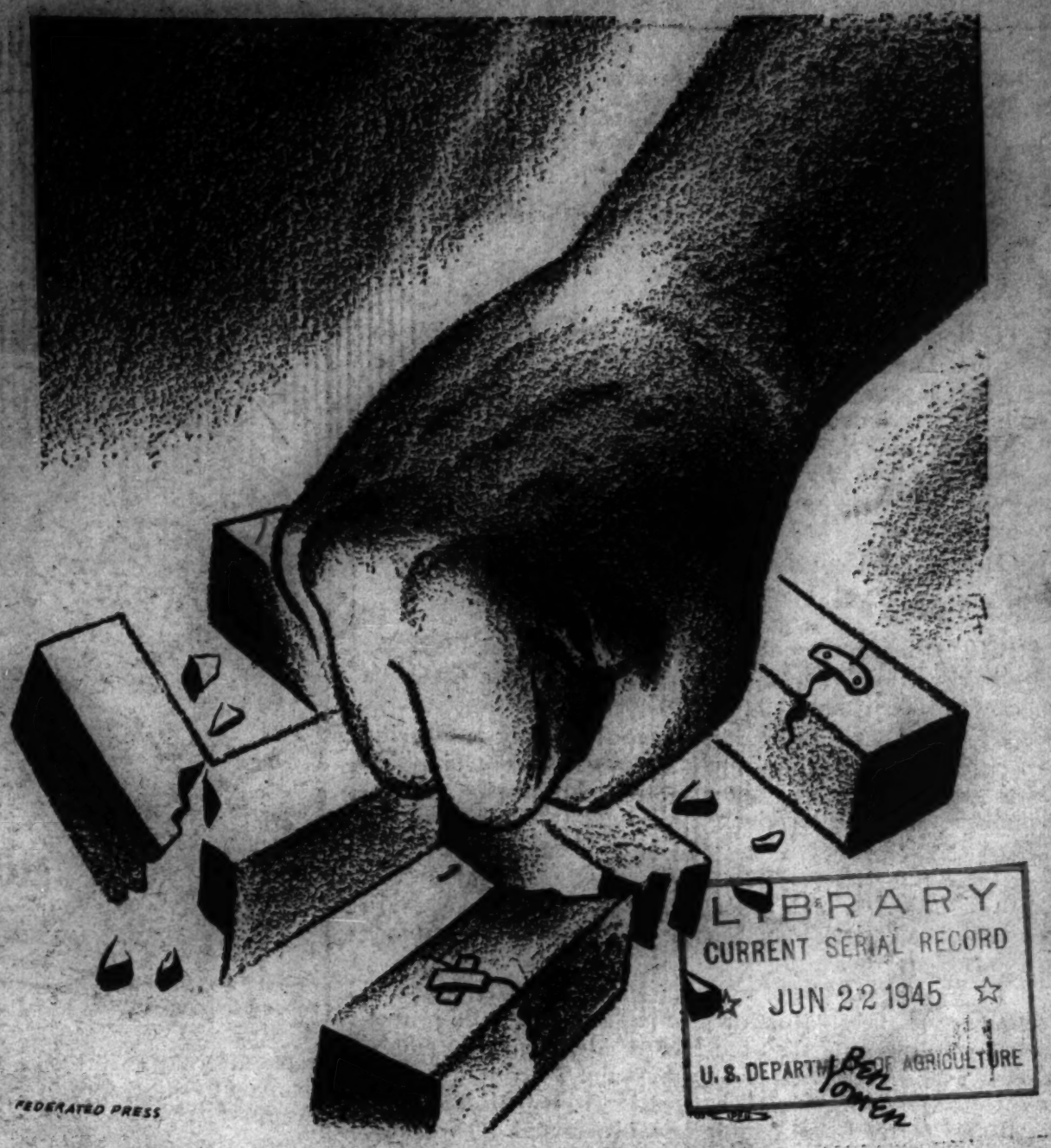
FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. V, No. 9 — May 15, 1945 — 68 — Price 5 Cents



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But There's A Big Job Ahead

GREAT rejoicing swept through the democratic world on May 8—and solemn determination to continue the fight till victory over the last remaining enemy is achieved. To the working people of our nation, V-E Day marked a milestone in achievement of all-out production for the greatest war in history.

Message from Patterson

Thanks for this tremendous achievement was voiced by Under-Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson in a message to FTA President Donald Henderson on May 9:

"Every American war worker had a part in our great victory over Germany," Patterson said. "My heartiest congratulations to all of you. Let us not forget, however, even on this joyous occasion, that we still have an enormous job to do. The nation is counting on American labor and industry to provide the weapons and equipment needed to crush Japan. I am confident that this great production team will do whatever is necessary to see to it that military schedules are met fully and on time."

Henderson's Reply

President Henderson's reply, on behalf on the members of FTA, said:

"We've knocked out two-thirds of the Axis and still have to wipe out Japanese Imperialism in order to achieve final victory over fascism.

"We must continue to supply our fighting men and the home front with the necessary food and tobacco. Our No-Strike Pledge will be kept inviolate.

"The war in Europe gave us the key to victory. We must continue the kind of unity, both in our own country and internationally, that enabled us to win victory over the Nazis. Here at home, we must build the kind of national unity embodied in the labor-management charter. At San Francisco, we must perpetuate the unity of the Big Three, not only to achieve victory over the remaining partner of the Axis, but also to assure a permanent and sound peace based on the continued cooperation of the United Nations.

"To this end we dedicate ourselves."

Controlling Prosperity After V-E

WITH victory in Europe, new problems are arising for the American people. While we finish the job of crushing Japanese fascism, cutbacks are already taking place in war industries. Government planning is needed to provide new jobs for displaced war workers; prices must be kept down; wages must be adjusted to the cost of living; tax laws must be adjusted; social security must be extended.

How will we meet these problems?

CIO Program

THE CIO has come out with a Re-Employment Plan. As described by Philip Murray, President of the CIO, this plan covers eight major points. They are:

1) The necessity for high wages to supply purchasing power, partly to make up the loss of overtime earning and down-grading of work, but also to make possible an expanding peace-time business;

2) The urgency of keeping prices low, so that wages may go as far as possible for the buying of goods and services. To this end, high productivity is necessary so that overhead costs may be low and ample profits made without higher prices;

3) The relationship of taxation to prosperity, especially because of the great many new public service and professional employments that must be created (such as education, health, etc.). Tax money must not be collected from people with small incomes, but rather from the incomes so great they can be spent only in new investment opportunity. The most fruitful investment opportunity for continued profits is in better wages and more purchasing power of the low income groups so that industry can sell what it can make. Mountains of profit piled up in possession of people who already have large investments, will cause a loss on those investments, because products cannot be sold in sufficient volume;

try planning, so that every group—including labor—may understand the economic problems of the peace and make its own contribution to solving them in cooperation with all other groups;

5) The necessity of maintaining certain controls during the reconversion period, so that the tightly wound spring that is our present economy, may be unwound gradually to prevent mass unemployment and depression;

6) The possibility of employment through the use of government-owned surpluses—not only finished goods, but especially plants and equipment, so that the people may use what the people have created and so that they may find new wealth in the use of these things;

7) The urgency and importance of public construction and housing, both for the job-creating function of building and for the use by the people of the structures and homes needed;

8) The importance and need of expanding social security protection of Americans, not only to improve unemployment compensation, old age and survivors' insurance, and welfare services, but also to include great new programs of health and medical care insurance.

Victory Visits

THE CIO is carrying this plan to the grass roots. At an Executive Board meeting in New York on March 12, Murray outlined a program of "Victory Visits" for every town and city where the CIO has members and where delegations can be formed to call upon the mayors and city councils. These delegations will ask one main question: "Where will the people of this community, now doing war work, find employment when military orders are cancelled?"

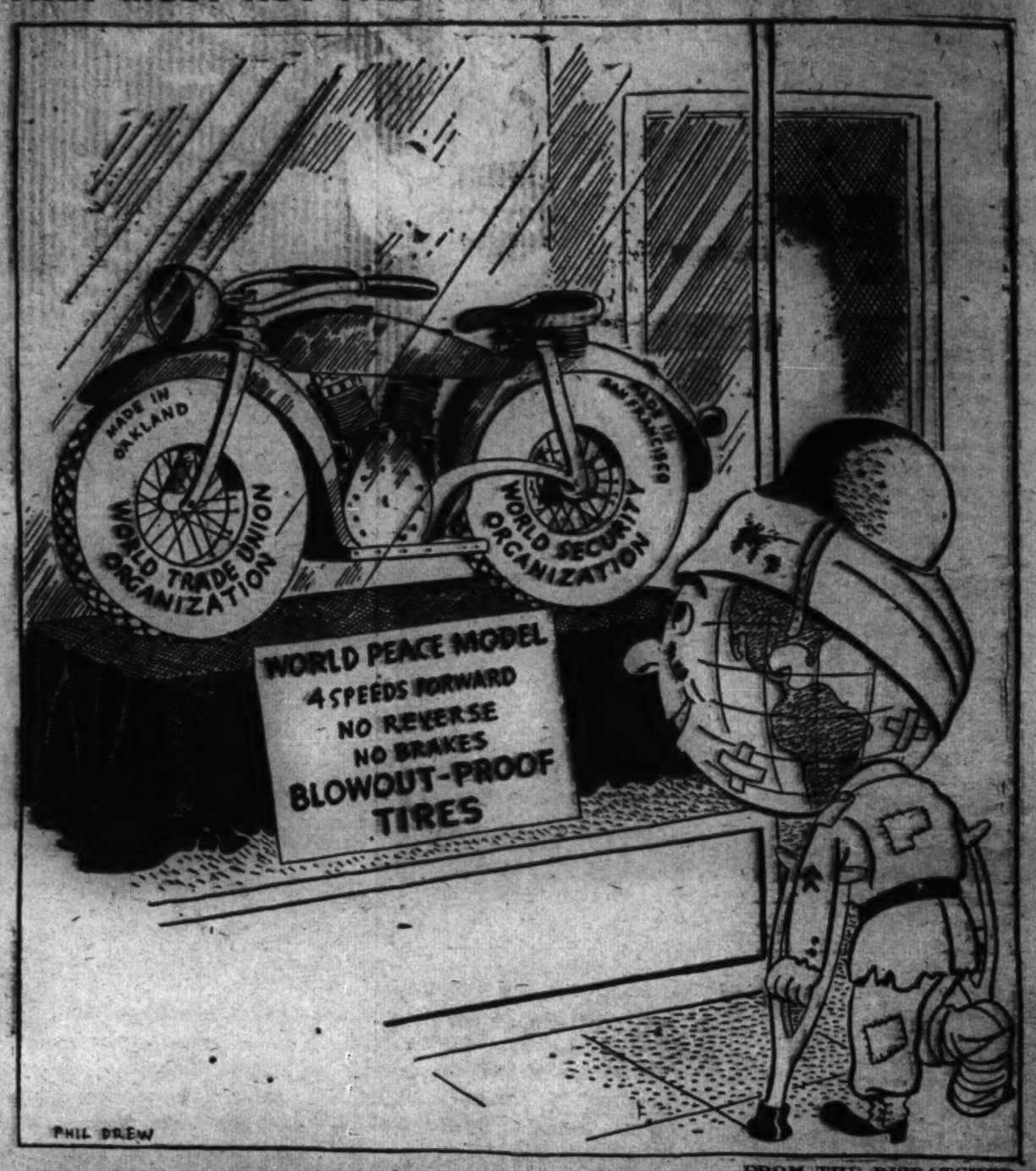
Murray has pointed out that the CIO is not the only interested group in the community and has proposed that the delegations suggest the calling together of cooperative conferences of labor and industry to discuss job and production schedules. The plan sees possible use of local government fund in construction projects deferred by the war.

The CIO made its position plain on price control at its national convention last November. A resolution passed at that convention stated:

"Unless price and rent controls and rationing are continued to be effectively enforced during the war, and particularly following V-E Day during a partial peacetime production, there will result uncontrolled inflation at the expense of wage earners and small businessmen."

The convention called for continued rationing of necessities of life, "including those items brought back into production as reconversion takes place."

THEY MUST NOT FAIL



FROM THE DISPATCHER

FROM WASHINGTON

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Legislative Director

ALL eyes are focused on San Francisco where the fate of the world is being decided, and the anxiety of the American people is reflected in hundreds and thousands of letters received daily by the State Department. It is good, of course, to communicate with the United States delegates and let them know we are concerned with the Conference; to impress upon them the necessity for coming out with a world organization based on the unity of the win-the-war coalition and the principles and policies set down by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

At the same time we must remember to keep an eye on Washington where important events directly related to San Francisco are taking place. It is in Washington that the economic basis for world cooperation and prosperity is being laid.

Favorable action is needed quickly on the **Bretton Woods proposals** (H.R. 2211) to allow U. S. participation in the International Fund and Bank which will operate as part of the United Nations organization. Congressmen still need lots more pressure from their constituents in this direction.

One part of the world organization, **Food and Agricultural Organization**, has been approved by the House of Representatives, must get Senate approval. And the **Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act** must be extended before June 12, when the old Act expires, in order to make possible a free flow of trade between our country and the other United Nations. Write your Representatives and Senators to support H.R. 2652.

Disastrous wage cuts for workers in the form of higher prices for food, clothing and other essentials are threatened by the powerful drive against price ceilings spearheaded by the meat packers. A break in ceilings will not help the meat shortage — if anything can relieve it, it will be the program announced by Economic Stabilization Director William H. Davis to force black marketeers out of business.

A real community campaign to preserve the **Price Control Act**, a campaign like the one that stopped the flood of amendments last year, must be organized again now. Mobilize your community by every means possible to register its protest against any attempt to weaken price control.

While agreement has been reached in San Francisco on a charter of human rights for the citizens of the world, Congress cannot agree, it seems, on certain basic rights for citizens of the United States. The right to a job, regardless of race, color or creed, is embodied in the bill to create a **permanent FEPC** with enforcement powers (H.R. 2332) which the Rules Committee refused to allow on the floor of the House. Discharge Petition No. 4 now lies on the Speakers desk to bring that bill out—it has some 70 signatures, with 148 more needed to make it effective. Ask your Representative to sign this petition at once.

While fighting for a permanent FEPC, we must see to it that funds are voted to continue the present FEPC before the end of June. This will be part of the **Deficiency Appropriation**. Write your Representative and Senators immediately on this.

(From FTA Washington Newsletter.)

Tell It To Congress

WITH V-E Day comes a feeling of urgency about postwar plans. Of the many issues in Congress involving our postwar economy, the following are immediate. Act now on —

Foreign Trade

Quick approval of Bretton Woods Agreements (H.R. 2211) and Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act Extension (H.R. 2652) necessary to secure millions of jobs in increased foreign trade.

ACTION: Write your Senators and Representatives to support—stress need for quick action.

Price Control

OPA must be extended, weakening amendments opposed, to prevent wage cut through higher prices at a time when workers already face loss of income through less overtime. Strong drive against OPA necessitates a strong community campaign in support of it.

ACTION: Write Senators to secure passage of S.J. Res. 30. Tell all Congressmen to oppose weakening amendments.

Permanent FEPC

For full employment—regardless of race, color, creed or national origin. Discharge Petition No. 4 must be signed to get H.R. 2232 on House Floor for a vote. Meanwhile, funds must be voted to continue present FEPC.

ACTION: Get your Representative's promise to sign Petition and vote for funds.

"Equal Rights"

House Judiciary Committee has reported out this amendment which would nullify protective legislation for women workers. This must be stopped!

ACTION: Tell your Representatives to watch out for this and oppose.

World Labor Speaks At Frisco Rally

San Francisco, Calif. (FP) — Labor leaders of all the major United Nations reported directly to more than 8,000 union members at a rally here on the aims and achievements of the World Trade Union Conference — and added some comments on how the nations are running the big security conference.

Members of the WTUC administrative committee representing the U. S., Great Britain, the Soviet Union, France, China and Latin American nations, all speaking from the platform of the Civic Auditorium, across the street from the scene of the United Nations conference sessions, hailed the ability of the diverse labor movements to get together on a common program: the WTUC constitution, now nearly completed, which will be the basis of a new world labor movement.

ASK AFL TO JOIN

CIO Pres. Philip Murray joined Sec. Walter Citrine of British Trades Union Congress in once more appealing for the AFL to join in the enterprise.

Pres. Vicente Lombardo Toledano of the Confederation of Latin American Workers drew stormy applause when he made a slashing attack on the seating of Argentina in the United Nations conference and warned: "Fascism is not dead and will not die unless military defeat is followed by the wiping out of every vestige of fascism everywhere on the earth."

TO STOP FASCISM

His attack, in which he named Spain, Portugal and Argentina as remaining forces of fascism, was followed up by Chairman Vassily Kuznetsov of the Russian All Union Council of Trade Unions, who declared that the only way for staving off fascism: guarantee workers jobs at increasing wages with social insurance and give labor adequate recognition in all international peace organizations.

Citrine hailed the USSR as "a notable exception" among nations in that it sent the only labor representative who is a full delegate to the United Nations conference—Kuznetsov.

Sec. Louis Saillant spoke for the French Confederation of Labor and Pres. H. T. Lin for the Chinese Assn. of Labor.

All FTA Locals Urged To Set Up PACs

Philadelphia, Pa.—Calling attention to the 8-point program on political action unanimously adopted by the last meeting of the CIO Executive Board, FTA President Donald Henderson urged immediate setting up of political action committees in all FTA locals.

Pres. Henderson announced, in a letter to all International and Local Officers on May 4, the appointment of FTA Education Director, Connie Anderson, to be in charge of political action work for the Union. She will be assisted by FTA Legislative Director Elisabeth Stevenson on federal legislative campaigns and by local PAC chairmen on local PAC campaigns. The chairmen should immediately communicate with Miss Anderson.

Pres. Henderson further urged that the next meeting of each local Executive Board and membership should be devoted to a thorough discussion of the 8-point PAC program. The program recommends:

- Setting up of political action committees in state and city Industrial Union Councils to carry out PAC program in cooperation with other community groups.
- Appointment by every international of person in charge of political action.
- All PAC organizations to carry on intensive campaigns for Bretton Woods, Dumbarton Oaks, Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill for Social Security, Murray-Thomas Full Employment Bill, and legislation for a 65c minimum wage, etc.
- A drive in cooperation with other groups to achieve the maximum registration and vote during all elections.
- Pamphlet a month to be issued by PAC about current issues.
- All internationals to contribute from their treasuries to finance PAC.
- Further financial contributions to be voluntary by individual members.
- Regional meetings to be held by PAC during May and June to bring the above program to the attention of the CIO membership.

Food Workers Endangered By Threat To NLRB

Washington, D. C.—The collective bargaining rights of thousands of agricultural processing workers in FTA are being endangered by a vicious campaign in the House Appropriations Committee. The strategy behind this campaign is to destroy the labor safeguards set up by the National Labor Relations Act by cutting a half million dollars from the appropriation for the NLRB. Such action would invite employers to undermine labor unions and collective bargaining rights.

Secondly, an amendment, sponsored by reactionary Senator "Pappy" O'Daniel, and by Ivan McDaniel of the California Citrus industry, would prevent the Board from spending its funds in any case involving the agricultural processing industries.

ANTI-UNION MOVE

While the first proposal would be a serious set-back for all of organized labor, the second proposal would directly affect the thousands of food-processing workers in FTA. It would also affect other CIO affiliates, as well as AFL organization among the sugar beet workers.

The automotive industry is vigorously fighting through the public press, through speeches, and through its powerful lobby, against the Murray full employment bill and any legislation to make meaningful the "right to a job" which President Roosevelt enunciated in the Economic Bill of Rights.

This security program has the support of many self-proclaimed spokesmen for American farmers. It is on the basis of the Board's threat to "agriculture" that Ivan McDaniel has obtained support from certain farm Congressmen who couldn't care less about the welfare of the workers employed by the automobile spokesmen.

The anti-labor bloc also proposed to prevent the NLRB from handling cases involving foremen, and to renew the Frey rider which prevents the NLRB from taking action in cases where the contract has been signed over 3 months.

WILL FIGHT IN HOUSE

While the Frey rider and the cut in appropriations have been approved by the Labor and Federal Security Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, the riders preventing NLRB action on cases involving foremen and agricultural processing workers were defeated. However, these two issues are expected to be brought directly to the floor of the House.

It is urgent that all members write their Congressmen protesting the cut in NLRB funds and the amendment barring NLRB action on agricultural processing cases.

Stay On Job Till V-J, Says Murray

Washington, D. C. (FP)—In a V-E Day mesage to all affiliated unions, CIO Pres. Philip Murray said "the long awaited and long fought-for day of final victory over German Nazism has been declared by Pres. Truman and our victorious allies.

"In the nationwide rejoicing over this great victory, made possible by the sacrifices of our troops and those of our allies, we shall not for one moment forget that we still have a stern job ahead of us to defeat imperialist Japan.

"The flood of war production that made today's historic victory possible must and will be continued until the armed might of democracy has overcome its deadly enemies in the far flung Pacific and Asiatic fronts. I am sure that all CIO members will join with me in pledging to stay on the job until it is finished and until we have a just and lasting peace throughout the world."

Celebrate May Day In Free Europe

New York, N. Y. (FP)—Joyous and triumphant, millions of workers throughout liberated Europe celebrated their first May Day in freedom after six years of Nazi bondage with hope of peace in their hearts, dispatches reaching here revealed.

The traditional workers' holiday was celebrated in Berlin as the Red army stormed the last line of defense in the very heart of the German capital. Red colors flew in labor's honor on the buildings in which Hitler mapped the orders that meant death and slavery to the workers of Europe.

Paris workers, 500,000 strong, marched in their first May Day parade since 1940, shouting death to Petain and the Vichy traitors who collaborated with their conquerors.

In Rome a huge crowd of 100,000 staged a May Day celebration in the Piaza del Popolo only a few days after the execution of their one-time dictator, Mussolini.

In Moscow's Red Square, thousands shouted in thunderous triumph as Marshal Stalin proclaimed the imminent end of Nazi Germany and vowed the destruction of fascism by the United Nations.

FEELING BLUE?

Write to your Congressman today, and send a copy of your letter to the FTA NEWS letter-writing contest!

Citrus Workers Pick "Orange Queen" At Successful First Annual Ball

By Dave Forbes, International Representative

Redlands, Calif.—Over 350 members of FTA's Citrus Workers Organizing Committee attended the First Annual Orange Queen's Ball given by CWOC here in Redlands' beautiful City Hall Auditorium on May 3.

An impartial committee of Judges composed of a soldier, a sailor and a local resident chose Rose Vaca "Orange Queen for 1945." Rose, an active union member at Mission Citrus, was crowned with orange blossoms.

Dora Segovia, an active member at Western, did a specialty dance number which was roundly applauded.

Members of the Dance Committee who are responsible for the huge success of the all are: Hortense Escudero, Tomasa Cervantes, Nicha Velasco, LaVerne LaFevre, Dorothy and Marcia Love, Helen Hunt, and Brother Hamilton.

CWOC members in the Redlands-Riverside area are building a real "grass roots" organization, which will not only achieve economic security for them, but which will also become an asset to the community. The CIO program of supporting the No-Strike pledge, Labor-Management cooperation, and the win-the-war policies of the Administration, has been an important factor in building the Union membership.

A fine sense of duty and Union spirit is always evident among the CWOC Shop Stewards who are doing an outstanding job in building the Union. The following are the newly elected Shop Stewards: Virginia Stinsel, Bill Bracken, Bob Heath, Mrs. Little, Hazel Davidson, Anna Hawkins, Dora Love, Marcia Love, Alma Zimmerman, Ed Albritton, Brother Smith, Edith Martin, Ermon Evans, Florence De Freze, Alma Haggard, and Ted Banek. They are the backbone of the Union in the citrus sheds of Redlands, Riverside, Highland, Bryn Mayr and Mentone.

4 More Sheds Sign All-Crop Contracts

By Dixie Tiller, Int. Vice-Pres.

Los Angeles, Calif. — Approximately 300 new members will be joining the ranks of Local 78 as the result of the signing of all-crop agreements with four more shippers of mixed vegetables in San Joaquin Valley. This brings to eight the number of shippers in the Valley who have signed similar agreements since April 1.

Formerly, the four shippers had agreements with Local 78 covering the shipping of melons only. The Companies also agreed to petition the War Labor Board for increases in the wage scale to meet the higher scale now existing in Imperial Valley and Yuma, Aris.

Negotiations began May 7 in El Centro, Calif., for the coming melon deal.

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Vol. V, No. 9 May 15, 1945

Harry S. Tr
His Record

THE TRUMAN COMMITTEE, as the vital Senate War Investigating Committee came to be known, did an outstanding job of investigating and correcting waste and favoritism in the National Defense program. The Committee looked into everything, including the soup cooked for GI's at Camp Meade, Md. Committee members with the Camp Meade cook, shown above, are: Wallgren of Washington, Chairman Truman, Joseph Ball of Minnesota, Tom Connally of Texas, and Ralph Brewster of Maine.

SHORTAGES in aluminum, steel, zinc and manpower were also investigated by the Truman Committee. Here Senator Truman is shown with Charles E. Wilson and K. T. Keller of the Chrysler Corporation, testifying on peacetime conversion. Left to right are: Joseph H. Ball, Truman, Mr. Keller and Wilson. Truman, who first proposed the setting up of the Committee and later guided it toward outstanding achievements, championed the cause of the small businessman. The Committee saved a billion dollars for the government.

TAKING THE OATH as President of the U.S., as his wife and daughter looked on, Truman pledged to follow in Roosevelt's steps. Although Truman's Investigating Committee had uncovered many weaknesses in the National Defense program, Truman at all times made it clear that Roosevelt was not to blame. He firmly stated that FDR's war leadership had been successful and that it "should be continued until the job is completed." The Truman Committee helped Roosevelt's war agencies to do their job well.

IT was no accident that Harry S. Truman was chosen for Roosevelt's running-mate in the 1944 Presidential election. Franklin Roosevelt placed his trust in Senator Truman in 1944 because Truman had proven himself, in his 10 years as Senator from Missouri, a firm champion of the New Deal, win-the-war Administration. Truman's record in Congress has earned him the full confidence of the people in the great tasks which await him as President of the United States.

What does the record show?

Truman supported the New Deal from the very beginning. In 1935 he voted for the Wagner Act, which gave labor the fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively; he voted for Social Security; for the Tennessee Valley Authority; for loans at lower interest rates to farmers.

In 1937 he voted for the Wage and Hour Act; for the Civilian Conservation Corps that helped thousands of youth to survive the depression; for the Wagner Housing Act, first move toward a national housing program; and for the reciprocal trade agreements that stimulated U. S. exports after the disastrous slump of the Hoover depression.

In 1938 he voted for the first Federal civil liberties bill and began a series of votes supporting FDR's policy of rearming the nation for the war.

In 1940 he voted for the first Selective Service Act; for parity prices for farm produce.

In 1941 Truman voted for further preparedness meas-

ON MONDAY, APRIL 16, three days after taking the oath, President Truman gave his address to the Joint Houses of Congress. The keynote was expressed in the wods: "I call upon all Americans to help me keep our nation united in defense of those ideals which have been so eloquently proclaimed by Franklin Roosevelt." One of Roosevelt's greatest ideals was his program for full production and full employment. Truman backed this program in a speech delivered in Detroit, March 16, 1944,

. Truman: rd Speaks

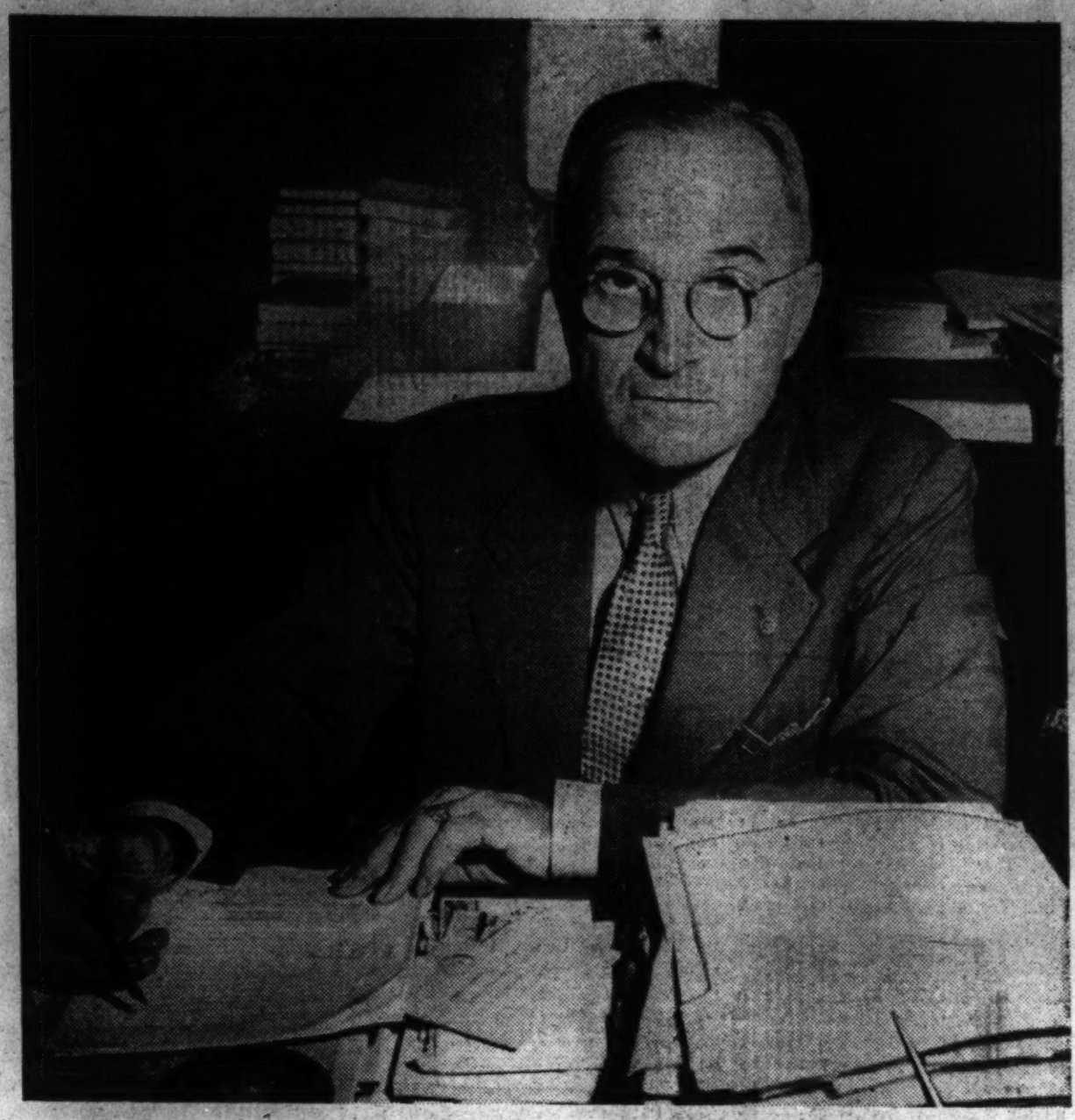
tures—arming of merchant ships, lend-lease, repeal of the neutrality act, and other measures that helped ready the nation for defense.

In 1942 he voted for the first price control act and for renegotiation of contracts in an attempt to recapture some of the outrageous profits that were being made on war orders. He also voted for repeal of the polltax and for the first GI vote bill.

In 1943 sharp struggles took place in Congress around such issues as Farm Security, the National Youth Administration, the Smith-Connally anti-union act, taxes and the like. Truman again voted with FDR and the progressives, with the exception of FDR's proposed $25,000 salary limit, which he opposed, and the price rollback plan. Truman also voted with those who pledged continued cooperation with the United Nations.

In 1944, except for his vote on the tax bill, Truman went down the line on every measure supported by Roosevelt. He voted for the Federal GI ballot plan; for the polltax repeal; for eliminating the requirement of income statements by unions; against an attempt to kill the FEPC; against an attempt to kill TVA; and voted for subsidies to help hold down food costs.

UPON this record, FTA and the rest of labor have pledged to help him fight to continue on the road to peace and prosperity which Roosevelt planned.



A HARDWORKING OFFICIAL, Truman is deeply aware of the complex problems facing our nation in the final stages of the war and in building the peace. He is a staunch friend of labor. In a speech in Cincinnati, May 12, 1943, Truman said: "This nation is fighting for its very existence and for the preservation of all our rights, including the right of labor to seek proper means, a fair and just share of the goods produced. In such a struggle, our Government has the right to expect that labor and those who represent it and management and its representatives, shall not permit stoppage of work in an essential industry. At the same time the Government must recognize that when it tells labor not to exercise during wartime its right to strike, it is depriving labor of its chief weapon with which to force management to be fair to labor. Government must, therfore, assume a duty to labor to see that it gets fair and square treatment."

"Truman is equally forthright in his condemnation of discrimination against Negroes. Speaking in Chicago, July 14, 1940, he said: "We must not forget that every community owes the Negro a fair [illegible] Negro legal equality and a fair chance in the world for several reasons, not the least of them because he is a human being and a natural born American. Because his political power is yet weak, he cannot be denied his rights. Never must we forget that if we sink the Negro to the depths of hopeless degradation and make no provision for his comfort in housing or any other necessity of life, the law of compensation will take effect and the whites, too, will go down with him . . . The Negro wants to be helped, not crushed. He wants opportunities to better himself, not relief. He wants just wages, not alms. He wants stability, security and friendliness. He knows that the Roosevelt Administration has been his salvation in these days of turmoil, strife and depression . . . Ignorance breeds all of the festering prejudice of our human family . . . In my opinion, greater educational facilities for the Negro would be a blessing to him and at the same time a great boon to society at large. If white men wish to do better for themselves, it would be well for them to give more definite attention to the education of the Negro."

ONE OF TRUMAN'S FIRST ACTS as President was sending off our delegates to the United Nations Conference with the message "we must learn to live together in peace." Left to right are: Virginia Gildersleeve, Senator Tom Connally of Texas, and Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Senator Arthur Vandenberg and Rep. Sol Bloom. Truman said in Washington, Jan. 17, 1944: "Lasting peace can be attained only through a new system of collective defense. The world of nations must adopt some adequate substitute for power politics. We must outlaw war by creating a new machine of peace more powerful than any machine of war. The means of enforcement is a powerful international police force . . . No government at any level, local, state or federal, however limited its functions, ever functioned successfully without having somewhere the force necessary to enforce its rules and punish violations."

when he said that "we must be resolved to utilize the new productive capacity of the splendid plants built during this war. We must use them to provide jobs for the men in our armed services and for the war workers. We need and want their products. By creating the goods and the spending power to purchase them we will provide the foundations for the soundest and most prosperout economy that the world has ever seen. To do so, however, will require the utmost cooperation and mutual understanding between government, business and labor."

Local 22 Heads "Graduate" From Training School

By Theodosia Simpson, Business Agent

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Seventeen members of Local 22 received their diplomas for the completion of an eight weeks course in leadership training under the direction of Local 22 Educational Director Eleanore Hoagland. The class covered a survey of world conditions for the purpose of showing why unions have established certain policies, the labor movement in other countries and the World Labor Conference, etc.

GENE PRATT, former Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company employee, and President of an AFL Tobacco Workers Local, joined the ranks of the CIO as an organizer for Local 22 at the Winston-Salem "Camel" cigarette plant. "I was ready and willing to change my Union affiliations," asserted Pratt, one-time President of the Winston-Salem AFL Central Labor Union, "because the CIO is more progressive than the AFL, and is better qualified to meet the demands of the post war era. Knowing that the CIO does not tolerate discrimination makes me proud to become a part of this wonderful organization."

By Theodosia Simpson, Bus. Ag.

Those who received their diplomas were Willie Grier, Caroline Clark, Martha Moses, Carl Danner, C. M. Reynolds, Velma Hopkins, Robert Lathan, Clyde Watts, Christine Gardner, Madeline Ross, Clark Shepperd, S. B. Templeton, Corine Pickenpack, Etta Hobson, Evan Blakely, Edgar Welborn, and Rev. Walter Young.

Classes in Union Problems and Public Speaking are now under way. Local 22 as a whole is entering the "Letter Writing Contest" sponsored by FTA News.

Proposals for the 1945 contract with the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company are being negotiated by the Union. Local 22 is asking for a union shop, 65c minimum wage, 10c per hour night shift differential, 4 hours call-in pay, a prorated vacation schedule, 10 days per year sick leave, 6 paid holidays, improvement in grievance machinery and in the seniority clause.

NEGOTIATORS

The Company has already signed an extension which will keep the old contract in effect until the new one is signed. Members of the Negotiating Committee are: Frank Green, Clark Shepperd, Theodosia Simpson, Evan Blakely, Robert Black, Willie Grier, S. B. Templeton, John Miller, Velma Hopkins, James Sprinkle, Clarence Conrad, Corine Pickenpack, Martha Moses, Sidney Royal, Rev. Walter Young and Rev. Frank O'Neal.

Local 22 joined with other labor, professional and business groups in Winston-Salem to form a Council for a Permanent FEPC. Frank Green and Theodosia Simpson represented the Local at the first meeting of the Council.

RATIONING IS A "MUST" Until Supply equals Demand

Urge Fair Treatment Of Minorities In Peacetime

Los Angeles, Calif.—Urging the passage of a permanent Fair Employment Practices bill, FTA Regional Director, Luisa Moreno, representing the CIO at the first government-sponsored community conference on minorities and employment, declared: "Certainly there can be no sound opposition to such measures. War sacrifices have been shared equally by all Americans—peacetime employment and well-being should be established and shared also.

"This discrimination in employment is not only undemocratic but is most uneconomical to the Nation and the community, for we know that low purchasing power . . . can be a drain on the general welfare."

CALL FOR FEPC

Sponsored by the War Manpower Commission, the meeting, held April 20, was participated in by representatives of government, management, and the community, as well as labor. Such organizations as the AFL, Merchants & Manufacturers Assn., WPB, etc., were represented. Most of the speakers stressed the need to employ minorities after V-E day and urged that legislation supporting the FEPC be enacted.

Stating that "without full employment, the future utilization of minority group workers becomes a gloomy one," Sister Moreno pointed out that the key to the solution of our postwar economic problems lay in the continued cooperation of "management, labor, government and the community . . . planning and working together in the postwar period."

"Our Daily Work Will Honor FDR"

Los Angeles, Calif. — "We feel that our daily work, modest as it may be, will always honor that man so loved by the plain people of America," wrote Regional Director Luisa Moreno in a letter of condolence to Mrs. Roosevelt.

"'Not with tears can he be honored . . . Not with tears but with the America and the world he wanted—a world without war, a world without fear or hunger,'" she continued, quoting the well-known novelist, Howard Fast.

"Do we have to urge you to continue the wonderful work you have been carrying on for years, Mrs. Roosevelt? By all means continue! We are with you. We cannot help knowing you are with us."

FTA Backs President Truman

FTA MEMBERS throughout the country were grief-stricken at the shocking news of Roosevelt's death. In almost every local tributes were held, pledges were made to support President Truman and to carry on FDR's work. Wires and resolutions were sent to President Truman informing him of FTA's support. In addition to the many reports on local actions printed in the May 1 issue of the News, are the following:

7 San Francisco, Calif.—The FTA pledge on the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt was read to the membership meeting of Local 7 following a discussion of the effect of his death throughout the world and the job that the workers have remaining for them under Pres. Truman.

The pledge was repeated by the membership who stood with bowed heads, and with hands on hearts—a fitting and solemn respect to the memory of our fallen leader. Many of the women members were weeping during the ceremony.

By Mario Hermoso, Reporter

35 Mercedes, Texas — At its membership meeting on Sunday afternoon, April 22, Local 35 passed a unanimous resolution of mourning at the death of the late Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt, pledging redoubled efforts toward victory, permanent peace and accomplishment of the late President's program and support to President Truman and the armed services. The resolution was in-

By Jean Meeks, Int. Rep.

78 Salinas, Calif.—Following the dispatch of telegrams to Mrs. Roosevelt expressing our deepest sorrow, and to Pres. Truman pledging him the same all-out support we gave to Roosevelt, Local 78 ended its meeting on April 16 by reading FDR's "Economic Bill of Rights," and observing a ten-second silence.

President Joe Parks expressed the feeling of the rank-and-file when he said: "No American ever fought so hard and so long for the rights of the common man all over the world. The rights he fought for and won are now a part of our American way of life and will live long after him. We, as working men and women must continue to fight for the goals he was still fighting for when he died. We must abolish fascism from the face of the earth and establish a just and lasting peace."

By Dixie Tiller, Int. Vice-Pres.

638 Lancaster, Pa.—The membership of Local 638 solemnly repeated the FTA pledge of support to President Harry S. Truman and our men and women in the armed forces at the last membership meeting held on April 22.

By Miriam Y. Cliff, Reporter

Charlotte, N. C.—The Buckeye Workers Organizing Committee deeply regretted the loss of our Commander-in-Chief, Franklin D. Roosevelt. The organized workers have lost a great friend. He was a champion of the common man. We must and we will redouble our efforts in defeating the enemy. More and more ammunition, equipment and food will go to the fighting boys of the Allied Nations.

We follow the footsteps of Pres. Murray and Pres. Henderson in pledging support to Pres. Harry S. Truman.

By William DeBerry, Int. Rep.

Notes from Locals

Secure Peace

15 Charleston, S. C.—"Over one thousand local union members respectfully urge the members of the U. S. delegation at the San Francisco Conference to bend every effort in laying a foundation for a secure peace on which the people of the world can build a brave new world with confidence and vigor." This was the text of a telegram sent by Local 15 to Mr. Stettinius, head of the American delegation.

By Reuel Stanfield, Pres.

Okay Contract

124 Huntingburg, Ind.—Local 124 held its regular meeting on May 2 where the new contract signed with the Ellsworth Bros. Ice Cream Co. was read and agreed upon. Following the meeting, the members served refreshments and enjoyed a social evening.

By Andrew Walters, Reporter

Support FEPC

638 Lancaster, Pa.—Local 638 voted a contribution for the fight to pass a Fair Employment Practices bill at the regular membership meeting of the Local held on April 22. Regional Director Lewis Bentzley gave an excellent educational talk on the importance of passing such a bill now.

Demands for the new contract were ratified by the membership. They included increased wages, improved union security, vacations, hours, and working conditions. The old contract expires June 17.

By Miriam Y. Cliff, Reporter

FTA Goes To "School"

Plans are all set for our own one-week FTA trade union schools for the

- **Northeast area—at Bechtelsville, Pa., July 1-8.**
- **Midwest area—at Madison, Wisconsin, July 16-22.**

Schools in other areas will be announced shortly.

Who attends? Your most active officers or stewards, chosen by the local union.

What is the purpose? To give these people a chance to learn more about how to win gains for the membership.

Discussions are led by the National Officers and by experts on War Labor Board, contract clauses, etc.

Make sure your local uses this opportunity: The President of each local in the midwest and northeast areas has full information.

FLASH
FTA Wins Two NLRB Elections

NLRB elections were won recently by FTA at:

- **Swift & Co. in Cairo, Ill., by a vote of 54 for FTA to 10 for the AFL. The bargaining unit covers the production and maintenance employees at the plant, including strawbosses and leadmen. Engaged in extracting oil from cotton seed and soy beans, the Company has 100 employees.**
- **Parisian Novelty Company, Chicago, Ill., by a vote of 23 for FTA to 21 for no union.**

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

Mixed Negro and White Regiment Fights Well on Western Front

By Herbert A. Klein

FP War Correspondent Herbert A. Klein was the only representative of the labor press on the western front, making available for the first time battlefront news on union men abroad and the way it affects union men at home. The following dispatch has special interest for union members, since it tells about the little-known achievements of the "mixed" Negro and white troops fighting fascism.

Wounded: While fighting with the First Army in Germany, Cpl. George Whitaker was wounded in the right hand. He is now in a hospital in England. Local 55 was very sorry to hear the sad news. George was one of our committeemen in P. Lorillard, and a mighty good one. We missed him when he went to fight for Uncle Sam, and we know he did a good job wherever he fought. We are very proud of the part our members are taking in the war effort, and we will continue to fight for right.

By Jennie Stiver, Reporter

WITH THE 42d INFANTRY DIVISION, 7TH ARMY, IN NEUSTADT—(FP)—Negro and white troops fighting together took over this town on the road to Nuremberg in what looked like a cool pushover—a matter of a few hours.

But if you had been in it right at the kickoff hour—as I was, riding in a jeep with two army photographers—it wouldn't have seemed so simple because until resistance is proved lacking, fighters must act as if it were there. So on either side of the main street of Neustadt, alert infantrymen walked in single file hugging the store fronts, searching for possible snipers left behind by the fleeing Nazis.

These cautious, competent looking boys were part of a company comprising one of four companies—the other three were all white—in the 66th armored infantry battalion of the 12th armored division.

They were clearing a way for their own vehicles—halftracks and armored cars—and tanks which were outside the town awaiting the word that the street had been completely cleared.

After it was and the infantrymen were relaxing on a street-corner, I talked to some of these friendly Negro soldiers and discovered that Sgt. Eddie Simons of Waterloo, Ia., was an ex-member of the Int. Bodcarriers-Building & Common Laborers Union (AFL) in Ogden, Utah, where he worked on a government construction project.

It's only in the past few months that the army has instituted a plan of socalled mixed regiments combining Negro and white fighting units like this one.

The opinion of these GIs regarding the result was best voiced by Eddie's friend Sgt. Joe Nathan Harris. Answering my question, "Where have you all been lately?" he said with a grin: "We're always out here ahead of everybody—but how come we don't seen nothing about the 66th in the papers?"

If Harris has the time, he'll be reading plenty about the 66th battalion. Along with the rest of Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's 7th Army it made front page headlines the following day when 7th Army troops, moving with lightning speed, captured Nuremberg, citadel of the Nazi party.

"Do you mind reading your paper AFTER meals?"

MAIL CALL

"IT SURE feels good to know you brothers and sisters of FTA don't forget us," writes Cpl. John J. Wachendorfer from somewhere in France. "Just keep up the good work and here's hoping for a stronger Union than ever.

"I will close wishing you the best of luck and health."

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN LABOR

Six Years of Struggle

By DR. PHILIP FONER

This is the eighth in a series on American labor history written for Federated Press and FTA NEWS by Dr. Philip Foner, an instructor at the Jefferson School of Social Science.

IN September 1873 the banking house of Jay Cooke & Co. closed its doors. Overnight the entire economic structure in the U. S. began to crumble. Before the year was over, 5,000 commercial failures were reported.

For six long, lean years the depression continued and throughout those terrible years there was ever-increasing unemployment. At least one-fifth of the working class was permanently unemployed by 1877; two-fifths worked no more than six to seven months in the year; only three-fifths were regularly employed.

Few indeed were the unions that weathered the storm of the long depression. It has been estimated that 300,000 workers belonged to unions early in 1873. Five years later in 1878 the total union membership was not more than 50,000. In New York City alone union membership decreased from about 45,000 in 1873 to 5,000 in 1878.

Unionists Hunted

Workers were simply afraid to be known as unionists for employers publicly announced that they would refuse to give work to men who would not leave their unions. A union member, said a contemporary, was "hunted like a log."

The New York World outlined in 1875 the program of most employers for the crisis. "The American laborer," it declared, "must make up his mind henceforth not to be so much better off than the European laborer. Men must be content to work for less wages. . . . In this way the workingman will be nearer to that station in life to which it has pleased God to call him."

American labor, however, was not convinced that God had decreed that all who work shall starve. That the workingmen were anything but content with their station in life was made evident during the crisis in mass movements for unemployed relief and in labor strike struggles.

Demand Relief

At a meeting of union representatives in New York on Nov. 15, 1873, a resolution was adopted calling on the City of New York to request a loan of $10,000,000 from the federal government to help out labor and a petition was forwarded to Congress which asserted that "all penniless, homeless and involuntary idle people are the wards of the nation and should not be suffered to roam through the streets neglected and uncared for." Similar demands were raised by workers in Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, St. Louis and other cities.

Workers Blacklisted

Strikes against wage reductions also swept the nation soon after the crisis began. Invariably, however, the workers were starved into submission, union leaders blacklisted and the unions themselves destroyed.

By 1877 employers were convinced that no workers would dare to challenge the power of capital and that the labor movement, for all practical purposes, was dead. They were speedily disillusioned. In the summer of 1877 one of the most militant strikes in all of American history broke out—the railroad strike.

Railroad workers had had their wages cut 30% between 1873 and 1877 and when in the spring of 1877 the companies announced a further 10% reduction in wages, the workers decided it was time for action. In this determination they were supported by their wives, mothers and sisters. "Better to starve outright," said the womenfolk of the railroad workers, "than to die by slow starvation."

Nationwide Strike

On July 19 the strike began on the Baltimore & Ohio. Soon it spread all over the country. Within a week the strike had swept from Maine to Florida and from New York to San Francisco. It was the first nationwide strike in our history.

As the strike wave spread, employers called frantically to local, state and national government officials to assist in defeating the workers. When state militiamen refused to fire on the strikers because they were "in perfect sympathy with their oppressed fellow workmen," federal troops were sent in by Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes. Negro and white workers united to meet the overpowering force brought in to break the strike but with inadequate funds they were compelled to capitulate.

Labor Learns

By Aug. 2 the strike wave subsided and the railroad workers returned to their jobs under the old conditions.

Yet the strike had by no means been a failure. Labor learned that militant struggles without effective union support could not cope with the great power of the employers. It also learned that political activity was necessary to prevent government officials from conspiring with employers against the workers. The result of this knowledge was soon to make itself apparent.

JOHNNIE JONES
BY DON RICO
GOSH! MY OWN FRIENDS HAVE TURNED AGAINST ME!
THEY'RE A BUNCH OF JERKS, JOHNNIE! HOW'D YOU LIKE A CHANCE TO GET BACK AT 'EM?
FEDERATED PRESS
WOULD I? AND HOW!
WELL--I'VE GOT SOME FRIENDS WHO'D PAY PLENTY TO KNOW WHERE "THE MISTY QUEEN" IS GOING--AND WHEN! D'YA WANNA PLAY BALL WITH US?
GO AHEAD, JOHNNIE! WHY BE A SUCKER FOR THAT GOOF WHO KICKED YOU OFF THE SHIP? TELL JUMBO WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW!
OKAY!
SHE'S SAILING ON MONDAY--WITH WAR SUPPLIES BOUND FOR RUSSIA!
THAT'S THE BUNKO--BUT IT'S WHAT FARREL TOLD ME TO SAY!
KEEP OUR FRIEND COMPANY, ANNIE! I'VE GOT VISITING TO DO!
SURE THING, JUMBO!
ALL RIGHT, PETE! THE LITTLE MAN'S PLACE--AND STEP ON IT!
AHO! THE KID TALKED, EH?
BUT AS JUMBO'S CAR TEARS THROUGH THE NIGHT, ANOTHER CAR, WITHOUT LIGHTS, STEALS SILENTLY AFTER IT..
DON'T LET THAT CAR GET AWAY!
DON'T WORRY, MR. FARREL!

SERVICEMEN:

When your military address changes, please notify FTA News immediately, so that you can continue to receive the paper.

The Hitler Beast Is Dead: United Nations Celebrate V-E DAY!

1 First Axis agression was Japan's seizure of Manchuria in 1931, but European World War II is considered to have begun at Munich where British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain (right) and French Premier Edouard Daladier appeased Hitler (left) by granting him a slice of Czechoslovakia to "keep peace in our time."

10 From Poland and from Russia the world had heard of the brutal cruelties of the savage Nazis in their death camps, but what the American armies found in the prison camps they overran first seemed to bring the full horror home to America. U. S. soldiers were starved in some camps, civilians killed in others, like this.

2 Hitler rapidly took over the rest of Czechoslovakia, having already seized Austria, and when Britain and France failed to arrive at collective security terms with the USSR, he signed a non-aggression treaty with Russia, then launched war on Poland. Above is heroic Warsaw after bombing.

4 In the miracle of Dunkerque, Britain evacuated the greater part of her army from the continent and the air battle of Britain began. U. S. lent help by lend-lease, but kept out of the war until the Japanese end of the Axis in a sudden treacherous move bombed Pearl Harbor (above).

6 Real rout of the Axis began to be apparent when U. S. and British forces invaded North Africa and Rommel, the Fox, was forced off that continent. Here the Americans make their first invasion landing of the war —a scene followed a few months later by the invasion of Sicily and Italy.

8 Symbolic of the victory drive that led to the end of the war in Europe was the liberation of Paris, accompanied by scenes like this, as joyful Parisians besieged their liberators with flowers, cheers and kisses, and the French resistance movement took over France from the Vichyites.

11 It was a great day when the U. S. forces from the west joined with their Russian allies from the east. (Above) Scene at Torgau. Nazi resistance collapsed. Hitler was reported a suicide in Berlin, and Mussolini lay dishonored in death at Milan. V-E Day was proclaimed on May 8.

3 Things went very smoothly for German blitzkreig and the world wondered if it was possible to stop the Nazi armies, which in a few weeks overran Norway, Denmark, Holland and France. Here, Hitler, victorious, and his staff parade into conquered Paris, with Eiffel Tower in the background.

5 Meantime, Germany had suddenly renounced its non-aggression pact with the USSR in an invasion June 22, 1941. Russian armies retreated slowly across a great portion of European Russia, sending factories back ahead of them. But at Stalingrad the USSR held and anti-Nazi fortunes turned.

7 The "second" or western front was reopened June 6, 1944, when American and British armies (above) stormed the beaches of Normandy as Russians put on the heat from the east. Italy had surrendered meantime. The Normandy invasion was followed by a sudden breakthrough to Germany.

9 A long, hard fight, interrupted by many lulls and by one final attack by the dying Nazi army—the battle of the Belgian Bulge in December, 1944—preceded the great breakthrough across the Rhine. First crossing was made over this bridge at Remagen. In a few days Allies swarmed across.

12 High point of the march on Tokyo to date has been the bitterly fought battle of Iwo Jima, which became famous in the public mind because of this picture of the planting of the American flag on top of Mt. Suribachi. With victory in Europe, the United Nations have to get Emperor Hirohito to complete the knockout of the Axis trio. (Federated Pictures)